

REMARKS

In a telephonic conversation 12/28/05 with the USPTO Inventor's Assistant Center, the Applicant was informed that the restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. 121 in the current Office Action could be addressed in another way by adding a claim that included all the elements of each grouping. In a Telephonic Interview with the Examiner on 12/28/05, the Examiner indicated that she was willing to consider such a claim .

Further, it was indicated that the Applicant could follow up on this approach with another Telephonic Interview near the end of January 2006 to address any subsequent issue.

Prior responses to earlier Office Actions indicated groupings wherein the remaining claims were withdrawn without prejudice.

IN THE CLAIMS

New claim 127 was drafted to include elements of all groups. Claims 110 and 112 are amended. Accordingly, by adding new claim 127, I am electing all groups comprising claims 86 – 107, 109 – 123 and 125 – 127.

CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

The present application is a national stage application filed under 35 USC § 371. Applicant requests acknowledgment that the present application has met the requirements of 35 USC § 371, and accordingly, this application claims the benefit of the international filing date of PCT application PCT/US98/20376, filed on 10/29/1998.

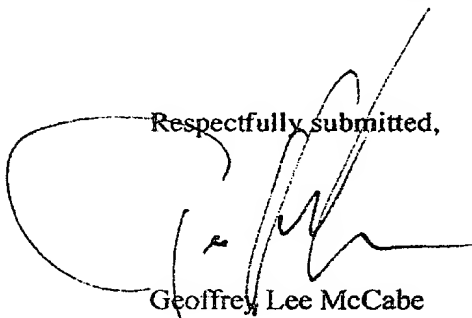
REQUEST FOR NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE

Applicant requests a Notice of Allowance for pending electing claims 86 – 107, 109 – 123 and 125 – 127.

CONCLUSION

All pending claims 86 – 107, 109 – 123 and 125 – 127 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt issuance of the subject application. If any issues remain that prevent issuance of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned applicant before issuing a subsequent Action.

Respectfully submitted,



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Marked Up Version Of The Pending Claims under 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(1)(ii):

Amend claims 110, 112 and add claim 127 as follows and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c), by which the Applicant submits the following marked up version, wherein the markings are shown by brackets (for deleted matter) and/or underlining (for added matter):

I claim:

86. (original) A bridge tailpiece having an element to receive at least one musical instrument string, the element comprising:

- a first string anchoring point for each string; and
- an alternate string anchoring point for each string.

87. (original) The bridge tailpiece of claim 86, wherein the bridge tailpiece further comprises:

a tremolo.

88. (original) The bridge tailpiece of claim 86, wherein the bridge tailpiece further comprises:

a fulcrum tremolo.

89. (original) A bridge tailpiece with a forward end and a rearward end and upper portion and a lower portion, comprising:

- an upper portion comprising:
 - a base;
 - a bridge element connected to the base, the bridge element located closer to the forward end forming a second critical point; and
 - a first portion connected to the base and located in the rearward end forming an alternate string anchoring point closer to the lower portion than the second critical point, and

wherein the lower portion being attached to the upper portion and the lower portion comprises:

a second portion that is transverse to the alternate string anchoring point;
and
a first string anchoring point.

90. (original) The bridge tailpiece of claim 89, wherein the bridge tailpiece further comprises:
a fulcrum tremolo.

91. (original) The bridge tailpiece of claim 89, wherein the upper portion further comprises:
a string opening located between the first anchoring point and the second critical point, and
wherein the second portion further comprises:
a member with a string passageway connected to the second anchoring point having an axis, the axis being aligned to the string opening in upper portion.

92. (original) The bridge tailpiece of claim 91, wherein the bridge tailpiece further comprises:
a fulcrum tremolo.

93. (original) A stringed musical instrument comprising:
a body having a surface;
a bridge element attached to the body; and
a tailpiece element attached to the surface of the body, the tailpiece comprising:
a first portion having a rearward surface having a string anchoring point formed therein, and located above the surface of the body; and
a second portion that is transverse to the first portion, and extends through at least a portion of the body, the second portion comprising:

a first end that connects the second portion to the first portion;
a second end, the second end having an alternate string anchoring point and formed therein below the surface of the body; and
an elongated passageway that extends through the second portion from the first end to the second end, along a longitudinal axis of the second portion, forming at least one opening on each end.

94. (previously amended) An apparatus comprising:
a body;
a fulcrum tremolo;
a biasing element comprising a first end connected to the fulcrum tremolo and a second end connected to the body; and
at least one biasing element holder; and
a singular apparatus connected to the fulcrum tremolo, the singular apparatus comprising:
a thumbwheel portion operable to position the at least one biasing element holder,
wherein rotation of the thumbwheel portion adjusts the equilibrium point between the tension of the strings and the tension of the biasing element to adjust initial position.
95. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 94, wherein the singular apparatus further comprises:
a U-shaped spring.

96. (previously amended) An apparatus for a stringed musical instrument comprising:
a body; and
a fulcrum tremolo comprising:
at least one spring comprising a first end and a second end, the first end
and the second end positioned opposite from each other on the at
least one spring, the at least one spring positioned between the
fulcrum tremolo and the body;
a spring holder connected to the biasing element ;
a singular apparatus connected to the at least one spring
comprising a thumbwheel and
a threaded elongated portion, the threaded elongated portion
threadedly connected to the singular apparatus and the threaded
elongated portion threadedly connected to the singular apparatus,
wherein rotation of the thumbwheel adjusts the equilibrium point between the
tension of the strings and the tension of the at least one spring and thereby
adjusting the initial position of a fulcrum tremolo.
97. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 96, wherein the singular apparatus
further comprises:
a secondary spring holder being threadedly engaged with the threaded elongated
portion, and
wherein the fulcrum tremolo being positioned between the thumbwheel and the
secondary spring holder.

98. (original) The apparatus of claim 96, wherein the spring holder being positioned between the thumbwheel and the biasing element.

99. (original) The apparatus of claim 98, further comprising a secondary spring holder connected to the biasing element,

wherein the thumbwheel further comprises a second elongated threaded portion,
wherein the fulcrum tremolo further comprises a threaded opening, and
wherein the thumbwheel is positioned between the secondary spring holder and the threaded opening.

104. (original) A fulcrum tremolo comprising an intonation module with a forward portion and a rearward portion:

the intonation module comprising:

a base;

a bridge element connected to the base, the bridge element located closer to the forward end forming a second critical point; and

wherein the rearward portion forms a string anchoring point closer to the base than the second critical point; and

wherein the string anchoring point is located a critical distance from the second critical point operable to render a string as approximately inextensible between the anchoring point and the second critical point.

105. (previously amended) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 104, wherein the intonation module further comprises:

a macro tuner.

106. (original) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 104, wherein the critical distance is at least 0.25 inch.

107. (original) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 104, wherein the critical distance is about equal to the length of conventional musical instrument string wrapping.

108. Cancelled

109. (original) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 104, further comprising:
a base plate attached to the intonation module, the base plate comprising a string
hole.

110. (amended) A fulcrum tremolo with a forward end and a rearward end, the fulcrum tremolo comprising:

- a base plate comprising a string hole,
- a spring holder that is transverse to the base plate [and attached to the base plate] comprising:
 - a first string anchoring point; and
 - a string passageway having an axis wherein a longitudinal axis of the string passageway aligns with the string hole;
- an intonation module attached to the spring holder comprising:
 - a base;
 - a bridge element connected to the base, the bridge element located closer to the forward end than the rearward end and forming a second critical point; and
 - wherein the rearward portion forms an alternate string anchoring point closer to the base than the second critical point; and
 - wherein the alternate string anchoring point is located a critical distance from the second critical point so that a string is rendered essentially inextensible between the alternate string anchoring point and the second critical point.

111. (original) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 110, wherein the intonation module further comprises:

- a macro tuner.

112. (amended) A tremolo for a stringed musical instrument comprising:
at least one bridge element; and
a unitary component that is a single piece of bent material comprising:
a base plate being approximately planar , comprising:
a forward edge, a portion of the forward edge being a pivot and
forming a pivot axis, and
an end opposite of the forward edge;
[a bend in the unitary component at an] the opposite end of the forward
edge of the base plate comprising:
a bend in the unitary component;
a transverse portion comprising:
at least one spring socket to receive an end of at least one biasing
element; and
wherein the bend transitions the base plate to the transverse portion, and
wherein the bend and the transverse portion are approximately parallel to
the pivot axis, and
wherein the unitary component is connected to the at least one bridge
element.

113. (previously amended) The tremolo of claim 112, wherein the transverse portion further comprises:

at least one string socket.

114. (previously amended) A fulcrum tremolo for a stringed musical instrument comprising:

a unitary component that is a single piece of bent material comprising:

a base plate being approximately planar , comprising:

a forward edge, a portion of the forward edge being a pivot and forming a pivot axis, and

an end opposite of the forward edge;

a first bend in the unitary component at an opposite end of the forward edge of the base plate;

and a transverse portion comprising:

at least one spring socket to receive an end of at least one biasing element,

wherein the first bend transitions the base plate to the transverse portion, and

wherein the first bend and the transverse portion are approximately parallel to the pivot axis,

at least one bridge element connected to the unitary component.

115. (original) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 114, wherein the first bend further comprises:

a reinforcement.

116. (previously amended) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 114, wherein the transverse portion further comprises:

at least one string socket to receive an end of a string.

117. (previously amended) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 116, wherein the base plate further comprises at least one string hole, and
wherein the transverse portion further comprises:
an upper portion;
a lower portion comprising at least one string passageway, each of the at least one string passageway is aligned with at least one of the at least one string hole in the base plate; and
at least one second bend that transitions from the upper portion to the lower portion,
wherein the lower portion is approximately parallel to the pivot axis.
118. (previously amended) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 116, wherein the base plate further comprises:
at least one tier for displacing the at least one bridge element from the base plate.
119. (original) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 114, wherein the transverse portion further comprises:
the at least one string socket.
120. (original) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 114, wherein the pivot further comprises:
a pivot having a knife edge.
121. (original) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 114, wherein the pivot further comprises:
a pivot having a beveled edge.
122. (previously amended) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 114, wherein the pivot further comprises:
a least a portion of a ball bearing surface.
123. (original) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 114, wherein the pivot further comprises:
at least a portion of a ball bearing surface; and

at least a portion of a shaft.

124. Cancelled

125. (previously new) A fulcrum tremolo for a stringed musical instrument comprising:

at least one bridge element; and

a unitary component that is a single piece of bent material comprising:

a base plate being approximately planar, comprising:

a pivot forming a pivot axis;

at least one bend in the base plate;

at least one additional portion formed to receive at least a portion
of at least one bearing assembly,

wherein the at least one bend and the at least one additional portion have
an axis approximately parallel to the pivot axis, and

wherein the unitary component is connected to the at least one bridge
element.

126. (previously new) A fulcrum tremolo for a stringed musical instrument comprising:

- at least one bridge element; and

- a base plate being approximately planar, comprising:

- a forward edge, and;

- at least one additional portion formed to receive at least a portion of at least one bearing assembly;

- the at least one bearing assembly , comprising:

- at least a portion of a shaft,

- at least one housing,

- at least a portion of a ball bearing surface, and

- at least one annular flange.

wherein the at least one annular flange spaces the at least a portion of at least one bearing assembly away from the base plate.

127. (New) A bridge-tailpiece for a stringed musical instrument comprising:
a fulcrum tremolo, the fulcrum tremolo further comprising:

- an element to receive at least one musical instrument string, the element comprising:

- a first string anchoring point for each string; and

- an alternate string anchoring point for each string;

and

- an intonation module with a forward portion and a rearward portion:

- the intonation module comprising:

a base;
a bridge element connected to the base, the bridge element located closer to the forward end forming a second critical point; and
wherein the rearward portion forms a string anchoring point closer to the base than the second critical point; and
wherein the string anchoring point is located a critical distance from the second critical point operable to render a string as approximately inextensible between the anchoring point and the second critical point;

and

a biasing element comprising a first end connected to the fulcrum tremolo and a second end connected to the body; and
at least one biasing element holder; and
a singular apparatus connected to the fulcrum tremolo, the singular apparatus comprising:
a thumbwheel portion operable to position the at least one biasing element holder,
wherein rotation of the thumbwheel portion adjusts the equilibrium point between the tension of the strings and the tension of the biasing element to adjust initial position;

and

an unitary component that is a single piece of bent material comprising:
a base plate being approximately planar , comprising:
a forward edge, a portion of the forward edge being a pivot and forming a pivot axis, and
an end opposite of the forward edge;
the opposite end of the forward edge of the base plate comprising:
a first bend in the unitary component;

and a transverse portion comprising:
 at least one spring socket to receive an end of at least one biasing
 element,
wherein the first bend transitions the base plate to the transverse portion,
 and
wherein the first bend and the transverse portion are approximately
 parallel to the pivot axis:
the unitary component further comprising:
 at least one additional portion formed to receive at least a portion of at
 least one bearing assembly,
 wherein the at least one bend and the at least one additional portion have
 an axis approximately parallel to the pivot axis, and
wherein the unitary component is connected to the at least one bridge element.